

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 were pending and examined in this application. The Office action imposes a restriction of claims among the following claim groups:

- I. Claims 1-21;
- II. Claims 22-32; and
- III. Claims 33-35.

In response to the above restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I of claims 1-21. Applicants respectfully submit that while the different groups of claims can be classified in different classes, there is no further search that is needed to examine claim groups II and III. The inventive features recited in claim 22, for example, is similar to limitations recited in claim 3, which has already been examined in substance.

### **Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement**

Both Forms PTO-1449 submitted through a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated May 23, 2003, and a Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated April 16, 2004 have not been returned. And Applicants hereby request such action by the Examiner as evidence that the submitted references have been duly considered by the Office. Copies of the Forms PTO-1449 at issue are enclosed under Exhibit A for the Examiner's convenience.

### **Summary**

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of the foregoing remarks, and respectfully submit that the claims are in


Appl. No. 09/977,971  
Response to Restriction Requirement dated August 23, 2004  
Reply to Office action of July 21, 2004

condition for allowance.

Date: August 23, 2004  
Reg. No.: Limited Recognition  
(see attached)

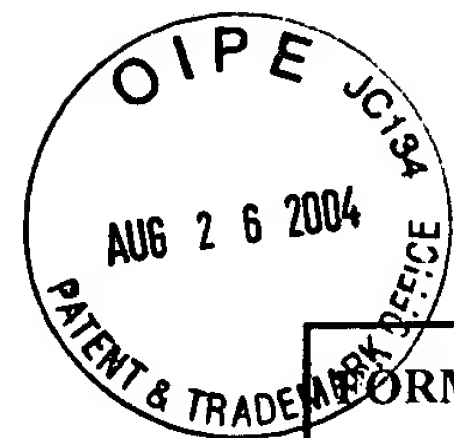
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Respectfully submitted,



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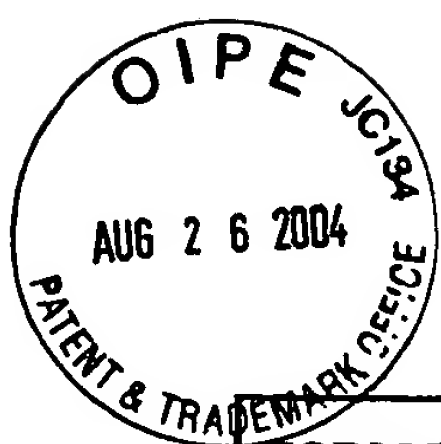
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<b>FORM PTO - 1449</b>				<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: NMT-002</b>					
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				<b>APPLICANTS: Forde et al.</b>					
				<b>SERIAL NO.: 09/977,971</b>					
				<b>FILING DATE: October 17, 2001</b>		<b>GROUP: 3732</b>			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE</b>		
	A5	430,849	6/24/1890	Groth					
	A6	5,049,153	9/17/91	Nakao et al.					
	A7	5,464,408	11/7/95	Due					
	A8	5,609,608	3/11/97	Benett et al.					
	A9	5,702,421	12/30/97	Schneidt					
	A10	5,810,864	9/22/98	Schaller					
	A11	5,853,420	12/29/98	Chevillon et al.					
	A12	5,891,130	4/6/99	Palermo et al.					
	A13	6,174,322	1/16/01	Schneidt					
	A14	6,238,415	5/29/01	Sepetka et al.					
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY CODE</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>	<b>ABSTRACT ONLY</b>	<b>ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)</b>
<b>OTHER ART, JOURNAL ARTICLES, ETC.</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>	<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS: (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)</b>								
<b>EXAMINER</b>					<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				

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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO - 1449

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: NMT-002

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT

APPLICANTS: Forde et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/977,971

FILING DATE: October 17, 2001

GROUP: 3732

COPY

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A29	6,623,518 B2	9/23/03	Thompson et al.			
	A30	2002/0120323 A1	8/29/02	Thompson et al.			
	A31	2002/0120322 A1	8/29/02	Thompson et al.			
	A32	5,951,564	9/14/99	Schroder et al.			
	A33	5,702,421	12/31/97	Schneidt			
	A34	5,407,243	4/18/95	Riemann			
	A35	5,133,721	7/28/92	Angulo			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY CODE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE	ABSTRACT ONLY	ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)
	B2	709 732	8/25/41	DE					
	B3	WO 02/032496 (PCT/US01/32184) with International Search Report	4/25/02	PCT					

## OTHER ART, JOURNAL ARTICLES, ETC.

EXAM. INIT.	OTHER DOCUMENTS: (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)						
	C1	International Search Report for PCT/US03/07911 dated March 15, 2002.					

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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